

06-12-2001

10/088701
JO Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 MAR 2002
EPO-DG 1

6 12 2001

PCT/NL00/00682

Enclosed to letter dated 5 December 2001

(63)

Added 957 Claims

1 Material carrier including a transporter for transporting material between said material carrier, such as a truck, and a material destination for instance a shop situated at a busy location which is difficult to access, wherein the transporter comprises:

- a frame part,
- a support platform which is displaceable upward and downward relative to the frame part between an elevated position and a lowered position, characterised in that

- a floor of said material carrier is provided with a recess substantially vertically accessible, and
- the support platform corresponds to a peripheral profile of the recess so that at least a part of the upper surface of the support platform serves as a part of the floor of the material carrier.

2. Transporter according to claim 1 in which the transporter is provided with fixing means for fastening the transporter to the material carrier when the support platform is fitted in the floor of the material carrier.

3. Transporter according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the support platform is provided with at least one wheel, which wheel is mounted on the transporter so as to be foldable between a storage, non use position and a position of use.

4. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the support platform takes a form such that it can be inserted into and removed from a pallet opening.

5. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, further comprising a fork-like support element arranged on the frame part, which fork-like

AMENDED SHEET

06-12-2001

2

element is arranged such that it extends forward under the support platform when in use.

6. Transporter as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fork element is provided on the front side with one or more rollers.

7. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, further provided with a source of energy for upward and downward displacement of the platform and/or forward/rearward displacement of the transporter.

8. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, provided with steering means for steering the transporter between a loading and unloading area.

9. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the fixing means comprise the platform and the fork-like support, wherein the fork-like support can be fixed under an opening of the freight carrier and wherein the platform can be fixed to the floor of the same freight carrier opening, so that the floor of the freight carrier is sandwiched between the fork support and the platform.

10. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, further comprising transporting means, preferably a pallet truck, which transporting means can be releasably coupled to the transporter.

11. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the fork element is displaceable up and downward by means of a piston rod mechanism mounted between the fork element and the frame part.

12. Transporter as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the support comprises two protruding upper forks which are provided with locking holes.

13. Material carrier as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, comprising a locking mechanism which comprises two mutually opposite pivotable locking nose.

AMENDED SHEET

06-12-2001

3

elements which are pivotable between a first locking position, wherein the nose elements extend into the holes of the upper forks of the transporter, and a second release position.

5 14. Use of a transporter as claimed in any of the claims 1-12 to transport goods between a freight carrier and an unloading area with difficult access.

 15. Use of a material carrier as claimed in claims 1-13 to carry goods.

10 16. Method for transporting goods using a freight carrier as claimed in claims 1-15, comprising the steps of driving the freight carrier to a parking area suitable for the purpose, placing the goods to be unloaded on the platform of the transporter, displacing
15 the fork elements of the transporter downward until they come into contact with the ground, removing the transporter from the carrier opening and displacing the transporter platform downward, whereafter the transporter and the goods can be displaced to the desired location.

20 17. Method for transporting goods using a freight carrier as claimed in any of the claims 1-15, comprising the steps of:

- placing cargo from a loading space of the freight carrier onto the transporter of which the top
25 side of a support platform is smoothly accessed from the floor of the loading spaces;

- displacing the transporter downward; and

- driving away transporting means, for instance a pallet truck, releasably coupled to the transporter.

30 18. Method for transporting goods using a transporter, for transporting material between a material carrier and a material destination, wherein the transporter comprises a frame part, a support platform which is displaceable upward and downward on the frame
35 part between elevated position and a lowered position, wherein, when lowered into an intermediate position, the support platform have a substantially flush connection, to the surface of the cargo container of the material

06-12-2001

4

carrier, comprising the steps of driving the freight carrier to a parking area suitable for the purpose, placing the goods to be unloaded on the platform of the transporter over said flush connection, removing the transporter from the material carrier and displacing the transporter platform downward, whereafter the transporter and the goods can be displaced to the desired location.

19. Method according to claims 18 further comprising steps for placing the support platform of the transporter in a recess of a floor of the loading area of the material carrier.